

## School safety takes priority

Hunter Winklepleck  
Staff Writer

Although O'Gorman's new foyer is aesthetically pleasing, safety improvements have made important changes to the building as well.

Easily the most prominent addition to the school, the foyer is also one of its biggest safety features.

According to Principal Kyle Groos, the foyer was specifically designed to monitor who goes in and out of the school.

"Within the first 25 feet of the entrance is the office," said Groos. "This allows us to see who goes in and out of the school very easily."

According to Vice Principal Mrs. Joan Mahoney, not knowing who was entering and exiting the building was one of the biggest problems with the old school. When someone came into the old school, the office could not see him or her right away because the individual would enter out of view of the office.

Another feature that Groos explained is the policy behind which doors can be opened and closed during the school day.

All the doors in the school, except for the main entrance, remain locked during school hours. This provides more control over who can come in and out of the school.

However, not all of the students feel that every door should remain locked throughout the day.

"I think that they should keep the Rec. Center doors unlocked so it is easier for students to get into the building if they arrive late or have an appointment," said junior Ben Johnson.

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Thimbles*



O'Gorman student section cheers for the Knights at President's Bowl 2009.

## Students discover school spirit at games, activities

Maria Barnett  
Shilpa Chandran

School spirit has always been an important part of students' lives at O'Gorman. Yet, this term is so often used that its true meaning has been lost.

In hopes of finding what the actual definition of school spirit is, the *Knight Scroll* staff randomly distributed 200 surveys throughout the school, and 124 surveys were re-

turned.

These surveys reached every grade, every gender and managed to give a glimpse into students' true views.

The first in a series, this survey was meant to discover O'Gorman's current level of school spirit.

The questions included: What activities are you involved in? What does school spirit mean to you? How much school spirit does O'Gorman

have on a scale of 1-5, 1 being the best? Do you support activities other than those in which you are involved? Do you feel that you are supported at your activities by the rest of the school?

The general results of the 1-5 school spirit question showed the majority of students believing school spirit was at a happy medium. Most participants believed that

See **SPIRIT** page 11

## New credit card rules passed; will affect teens

Domenica Gilbert  
Becky Jarding

Beginning February 22 of next year, a new credit card act will be put into effect; this act includes provisions that will greatly influence how teenagers handle their finances.

The Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 aims to protect consumers by establishing fair credit card practices. Among its many provisions, the act includes restrictions for minors.

"The new act requires consumers under 21 to have a parent or other adult co-sign the credit card or prove they have an independent means of repaying the costs," said Miles Beacom, President and Chief Executive Officer of Premier Bankcard. "It also puts limits on how credit card offers are made to consumers under 21."

For those individuals who are attending college and are unable to seek employment, the new act will make it nearly impossible for them to acquire a credit card without a co-signer.

Whether or not the individual would be capable of managing a credit card becomes less relevant than whether or not the person

See **CREDIT CARDS** page 2

## 30-year instructors receive recognition for years of service

Taylor Reaves  
Activities Co-Editor

Band Director Dr. Duane Niles and Vocal Instructor Cathy Britton of Sioux Falls O'Gorman were awarded the Meritorious Music Educator Award for their 30 years of music education. South Dakota Music Educators Association presented the award to music educators for completing 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service.

"I felt honored and humbled receiving an award for a job I love to do," said Britton. "I couldn't believe I've been teaching that long. It seems like yesterday that I had my first teaching job."

The award was presented at a Music Educators banquet on Friday, October 30 at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City. The following day, each of the award recipients was introduced before the start of the All-State Chorus and Orchestra concert on Saturday, October 31.

"I am thankful for the students I have worked with over that many years all over this state," said Niles. "I appreciate the band students here at O'Gorman for giving me a chance to help them grow in their music education."

## O'G custodians keep old standards in new school

Ellen Nelson  
Staff Writer

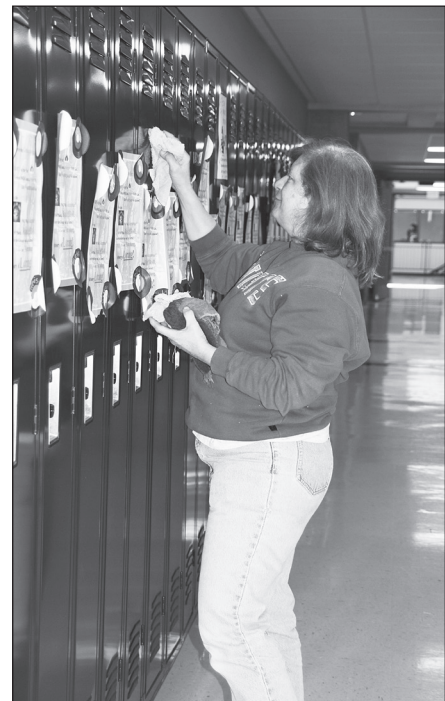
Although O'Gorman has undergone some extreme renovations, there is one thing that has not changed; the janitorial staff continues working hard toward keeping the building clean.

"Cleaning after six hundred plus people is not easy," said custodian Mary Daggett. "There was less to clean with the old building, but the new building is beautiful."

As beautiful as the new school is, the sheer size of it creates a challenge for the janitorial staff. The windows and glass in the new building especially produce a challenge for the custodians and work study students assigned to help with cleaning.

"It's easier than I originally thought it was going to be," said sophomore work study student Collin Lathrop.

See **CUSTODIANS** page 2



DOMENICA GILBERT / KNIGHT SCROLL  
Mary Daggett, O'Gorman custodian, works diligently cleaning lockers.



## Letter From the Editors

To our beloved readers:

We would first like to start by thanking you for reading the first two issues of the *Scroll*. We truly appreciate the positive support that we have received, and we hope to continue to put forth a paper that is worthy of your approval.

Without the support of the student body and faculty, the production of a quality paper would not be possible.

As we mention the word quality, we remind ourselves what constitutes a paper of that status. Clearly, a quality paper must include hard-hitting news stories that both inform and relate to the audience. Having a well-designed paper that is visually appealing is vital as well.

However, when defining this word, it would be impossible to forget the importance of accuracy. One of our main jobs as editors is to make sure that every aspect of the paper is polished to perfection.

While we realize that perfection is an impossible goal to attain, we do strive to come as close as we can to achieving it.

Although it is inevitable that mis-



takes are going to happen, we try to dissect the paper and eliminate as many of these mistakes as possible.

In the November issue of the *Scroll* we failed at this task. It was brought to our attention that we made some careless mistakes throughout the issue.

Although this was in no way done intentionally, they were mistakes nonetheless, and they should have been caught by us. In future issues, we will try even harder to eliminate as many mistakes as possible.

As we strive to produce a quality paper of accuracy, sometimes the best way to gauge whether or not we are achieving this is by your feedback.

Whether you are pleased or disgusted with the *Scroll*, we are always happy to hear your thoughts on the

paper. Readers may have ideas for improvement that the *Scroll* staff hadn't thought of.

Writing a letter to the editors is always an option for those who wish to communicate their thoughts regarding the paper.

On a more positive note, as the Christmas season approaches, we hope that you are able to fully enjoy the holidays.

Hopefully amidst all the commotion of the upcoming festivities, you will all find some time to devote to yourselves.

After an incredibly stressful first semester of school filled with homework assignments, sporting events, play practice, or writing college application essays, what better way to reward yourself than a day of relaxation? Whether this means finally starting that book you bought at the beginning of summer or just listening to some of your favorite music, we can probably all agree that we deserve a break.

We hope that you all have a Merry Christmas and a delightful New Year!

Sincerely,

Domenica & Becky

### CUSTODIANS

Continued from page 1

"I clean the glass doors in the morning while kids and teachers are still arriving at school. People are entering the school, so it gets kind of awkward."

The glass that lines the walls of the school needs to be cleaned not only in the morning, but after school as well. Almost as soon as the bell rings, the glass needs to be cleaned again in order to keep the school looking presentable from both the inside and out.

"Your entrances are a lot of first impressions that people have," said Principal Kyle Groos. "That is an area we put a lot of value in and that we try to stay on top of the best we can, considering the sheer amount of people coming in and out of those doors all the time."

According to Lathrop, the doors and windows need to be cleaned every day because students leave their handprints. He also says that although waking up early to clean the windows before school gets exhausting at times, it is never torture.

Lathrop does not work alone in the morning to keep the glass and the rest of the school clean. The entire janitorial staff works together throughout the day to keep the high school immaculately clean.

"We all work as a team," said Daggett. "It takes all of us to get the job done. I do enjoy being part of the O'Gorman High School family."

Teamwork is possibly the only way to keep a school the size of O'Gorman clean. The new building has increased about 30,000 square feet. This is not including the performing arts center that will be built.

"The sheer square footage is increasing for our janitorial staff so that's something we'll continue to monitor and evaluate if we have the amount of man power needed to keep an area clean," said Groos. "Time will tell."

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### Letters to the Editor

All letters should be short and concise. The writer should include a name and contact information. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, conventions and length.

### Editorial Policy

All editorials are the sole opinion of the writer and do not necessarily represent the beliefs of the O'Gorman faculty, administration or the *Knight Scroll*.

### CREDIT CARDS

Continued from page 1

can prove that he or she can repay the money borrowed.

Although the new act may restrict responsible teens able to manage a credit card, it will also provide protection for those individuals who would struggle managing their finances.

According to the Young Americans Center for Financial Education, 21 percent of 18 and 19 year-olds have credit cards.

The new act would make it increasingly difficult for individuals in this age group to acquire credit cards.

In her personal finance class, Mrs. Jane Bradfield, business chair at O'Gorman High School, was surprised to learn that the majority of her students were in favor of the new credit card act.

However, the students' acceptance of the act may not be as surprising as it seems.

According to a Jumpstart Personal Finance survey administered to 6,000 students, 62 percent of the participants received failing scores. Also, one in three teens did not know how to read a banking statement.

These statistics call into question whether or not this act is necessary to protect uneducated students.

"On one side, there seems to be an element of sensibility in government intervention to protect young adults from overextending themselves on credit,"

said Bradfield. "On the other hand, in a country where the ability to control your life's actions is a cherished ideal, the law would be restrictive by dismissing the ability of responsible people to control their own lives."

Currently, credit card companies are allowed to market their product on most college campuses. However, the new act will restrict these solicitations.

Also, consumer reporting agencies will be required to gain permission from individuals under the age of 21 prior to giving out their names to credit card companies.

However restrictive the new act may seem, according to Laura Olson, director of financial aid at the University of Sioux Falls, it will help teach individuals valuable financial lessons.

"The positive effect of requiring a co-signer is to help students stay in check with their spending," said Olson. "In my line of work I see many students each year getting credit cards at a young age who don't understand spending limits and timely payments."

Conversely, although it will prevent individuals from acquiring credit card debt, the new act will also prevent responsible individuals from being able to start establishing credit.

"Besides the obvious benefits of having access to lines of credit for consumer purchases, a good credit rating also impacts insurance rates, renting an apart-

ment, and in some cases, employment opportunities," said Bradfield. "Over the course of a lifetime, possessing a good credit score can translate into significant savings in interest payments and insurance rates."

This causes people to wonder whether preventing teens from acquiring debt is also worth preventing them from establishing credit.

"Often credit is characterized as something negative," said Bradfield. "However, most people must have access to fair and reasonable credit throughout their lifetime."

If individuals are unable to start gaining credit at a young age, it may be difficult for them to acquire car or home loans when such services become necessary.

According to Beacom, what one must keep in mind is that when handled with responsibility and maturity, credit cards can be useful in managing one's finances.

However, when not handled appropriately, credit cards can lead to financial problems, such as a low credit score or bankruptcy.

Bradfield stresses that the best way to deal with such financial problems is to prevent them from happening in the first place.

"It is imperative that we educate students on the importance of the responsible use of credit, so that if necessary, they will use credit in a positive and sensible manner to benefit their lives," said Bradfield.



## Search provides new perspective

Becky Jarding  
Co-Editor

From November 20-22, teenagers aged 16 and older spent their entire weekend at Holy Spirit Parish. Individuals at the church partook in the Search for Christian Maturity retreat.

Established in the 1960s by the Catholic Youth Organization, Search is a weekend-long retreat put on for youth, run by youth.

"You come and you basically get a new perspective on the sacraments," said Beth Cink, the November Search director. "Everything is led by students."

Individuals helping run the retreat, Researchers, have participated in at least one Search retreat prior to the one they are helping at.

"Researchers make everything run," said Cink. "They are good examples, they make everyone feel accepted and welcome, and they share their faith with the new Searchers."

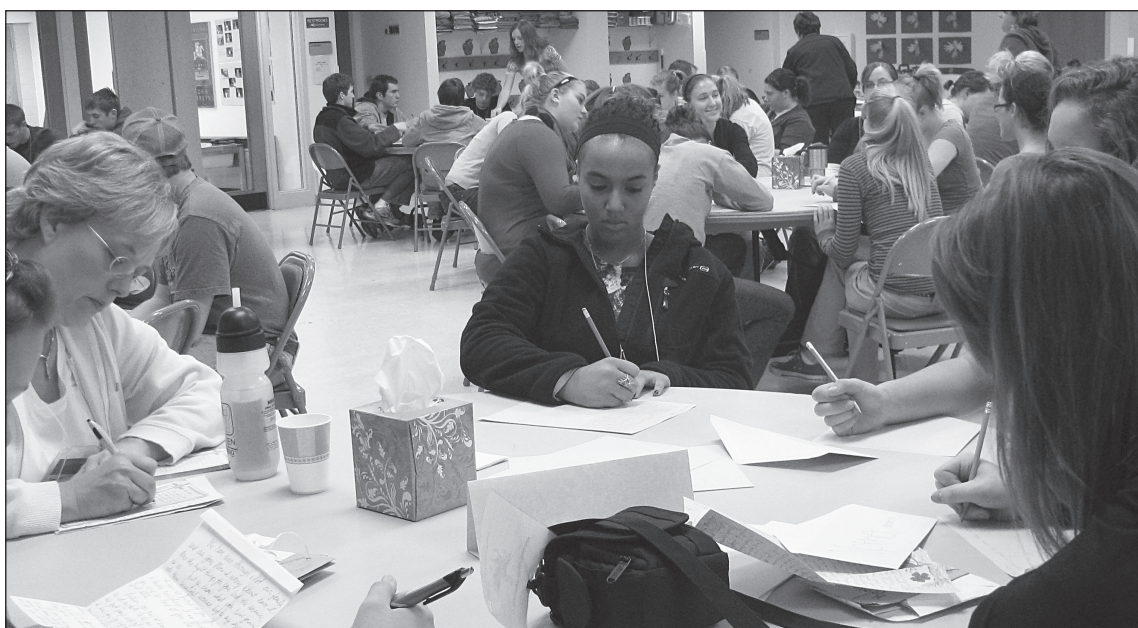
Those who do choose to continue attending Search retreats usually do so because of a positive experience he or she has encountered.

"At the November Search retreat I got to witness people giving themselves to God and wanting Him to come into their lives, and that is such a gift," said Ashley Haiar, O'Gorman Researcher.

Haiar is not alone in her satisfaction with the retreat. Tyler Soldatke, O'Gorman senior and first time Searcher, also enjoyed the weekend.

"It was an amazing experience," said Soldatke. "It was nice to just get away from reality and just search for God. I would definitely come back and be a researcher."

Soldatke, along with the rest of the new Searchers, participated in small group discussions, talks, confession, adoration, mass, singing, and skits during the weekend. Although all of the individuals at the retreat



MARIA BARNETT / KNIGHT SCROLL

Students participate in a group activity during the Search for Christian Maturity retreat.

participated in the same activities, not all of them were at the retreat for the same reason.

"People come for a lot of different reasons," said Cink. "A lot of people come because of Confirmation. Others are just

curious, and some people are just searching for more."

Those who attend Search are not limited to Sioux Falls residents. This is only Sioux Falls' second year hosting Search retreats; prior to that, the only Search in South

Dakota took place in Aberdeen.

Now students from Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, and surrounding cities participate in either one or both retreats. Two additional retreats are also occurring in Sioux Falls in February and June.

## Stoned to death, St. Stephen dies for faith in God

Christina Engeman  
Faith Co-Editor

Commonly known as the first martyr of the Church, St. Stephen lived a life of meekness and humility, all while preaching the message of Jesus throughout the first century.

St. Stephen, whose name signifies a crown, was one of the seventy-two disciples of Christ. He was named the first deacon and had deep faith and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

Stephen's enthusiasm and zeal for his faith led him to trouble and ultimately, his death. The authorities of the time, mainly the Sanhedrin, were filled with hatred and envy of the rapidly growing Christians. They planned a conspiracy against Stephen and charged him with blasphemy.

During his opportunity to defend himself at his trial, Stephen preached about Jesus and explained the accounts of blasphemy the Sanhedrin accused him of.

This only angered the authorities more and led them to the decision of his execution.



PRESS PHOTO

St. Stephen, the patron saint of deacons, was stoned to death for his belief in and evangelization of Jesus.

Outraged and furious, the authorities drug Stephen out of the city limits and began to stone him to death. While being tortured, Stephen turned to the Lord and prayed.

He found comfort and joy in his suffering, ultimately leading him closer to God. He died around the year 35 A.D. in Jerusalem.

St. Stephen is the patron saint of deacons, casket makers, headaches, horses and masons. His feast day is December 26.

## New apocalyptic film brings scare, intrigue

Maria Barnett  
Entertainment Co-Editor

Today the biggest media scare is the apocalypse, or the 2012 phenomenon.

The film was a hit, especially among students, who continue to discuss their views and question the proposed end of the world. However, the Church's views are completely separate from those of the media.

According to the Mayans, an extinct, indigenous nation in Latin America, the end of the predicted cycle falls on December 21, 2012 at 11:11 a.m.

Contrary to popular belief, however, the end of this cycle does not mark 'the end of the world as we know it'. The end of this cycle marks the beginning of a new cycle, not the destruction of civilization. All historical context aside, this end of the world will probably never happen.

Then again, the end of the world could happen tomorrow, and no earthly being would have any knowledge of it.

Regardless of the rumors, the Church reminds people that God is the only One who knows when the world will end. No other being or spirit has that knowledge.

"Jesus, the Son of God, nor the angels have any idea when the end will be," said Father David Krogman, pastor at St. Mary's. "It is all God's plan, and no one knows except He."

Although the Catholic Church does not interpret the Bible literally, plenty of scripture backs up this belief. The church teaches that it is wrong for people to believe otherwise, and it has good reason.

People should not worry about the apocalypse. After all, the world could end tomorrow and no one would have control over it – except God.

## Christmas at Cathedral show goes on despite construction

Nicole Scheier  
Faith Co-Editor

With the anticipation of the holiday season, Christmas at the Cathedral emerges to remind individuals of the true meaning behind Christmas.

Attending the event provides "a new and inspiring way to think about and experience the Christmas story," said head producer Mark Conzemius. "People have described Christmas

at the Cathedral as a sort of oasis in the midst of what has become predominantly the secular Christmas season."

From within the beautiful Cathedral, the event portrays the story of Christmas through exquisite music and acting within. This year, proceeds from the annual charity will help fund the preservation and restoration of the Cathedral.

A symphony orchestra and soloists perform traditional Christmas carols, in addition to

other types of music. Some new faces to the event this year include conductor Dan Goeller, who has toured with Amy Grant and Vince Gill, world renowned tenor Scott Piper, soloist Heidi Goeller, and actor Rod Pierce.

After several months of construction, during which it was closed to the public, the Cathedral will open its doors for its annual event.

Despite the ongoing renovation, the event will still uphold its original stature.



# Rocket team hopes to blast way to nationals

**Zach Cole**  
Staff Writer

The O’Gorman rocket team is looking to three-peat their way to nationals.

The last two years the O’Gorman rocket team has qualified for the Team America Rocketry Challenge National Finals and are hoping to make that happen again this year.

The Team America Rocketry Challenge is a national competition that only the top 100 teams in the country are able to qualify for.

“We have made it to nationals the past two years and would like to make it again this year,” said coach Ms. Jane Schnell.

The team spends thier season building a rocket that they use to try and qualify for the national competition.

According to Schnell, the rocket team season starts the day after

Labor Day and concludes May 15, 2010 with the qualification of nationals.

The rocket team spends most of the season designing the rocket that they will attempt to build.

“We have so far just been doing a lot of computer simulated things,” said senior team member Tori Kaspar.

After the team has come up with the plans for their rocket, they begin the process of building it.

“The team is allowed to make two qualifying attempts before the competition deadline on April 5, 2010,” said Schnell.

With the rocket team constantly pushed by the stress of building a superior rocket, it is helpful to know they have some team leaders they can turn to.

“The strong leaders of this year’s team are pretty much Joshua Mc-

Quade and Peter Petrasko,” said junior team member Ross Rice.

While those are just two team members, the others include Julia Schrier, Tori Kaspar, Ross Rice, Aaron Culey, Matthew Dondelinger, Caleb Jamison and Jonathan Shaeffer.

The main challange of every season is to be the best rocket team out of roughly 750 teams throughout the United States. Every year the top 100 teams make it to nationals, which has included OGorman for the past two years.

“If the team qualifies for nationals, the next goal would be to make the top 20 teams so you can fly your rocket twice,” said Schnell.

The top three teams that qualify for finals all receive a weighted share of \$60,000 in scholarship money. The winning team out of those three receives an all expense



ABBY MEYERS / KNIGHT SCROLL

Rocket team members include (left to right) Josh McQuade, Peter Petrasko, Caleb Jamison, Ross Rice, Aaron Culey, adviser Jane Schnell, Jonathan Shaeffer, Julia Schrier, Tori Kaspar, and Matthew Dondelinger.

paid trip to the International Air Show in London, England.

O’Gorman’s yearly rocket team goal is to qualify for the Team America Rocketry Challenge.



TAYLOR REAVES / KNIGHT SCROLL

Seniors Gian Andreone and Rachel Mullin practice for an upcoming debate tournament.

## Debate team has competitive plans for its upcoming season

**Abby Meyers**  
Activities Co-Editor

Returning from a successful season last year, the debate team is looking to make this season as competitive as the last.

Leading the team this year are captains Gian Andreone and Rachel Mullin, along with seniors Tori Kaspar and Anthony Sierra. Juniors Shilpa Chandran and Cassie Tomac also play key roles on the team.

Mrs. Gwen Skar, assisted by Mrs. Kelly Brose, coach O’Gorman’s debate team.

Although there are no requirements to be in debate, hard work is helpful.

“You can be involved in other activities, but in order to succeed in debate you have to be dedicated,” said Skar.

“People who might be good at debate are those who like to argue and think critically about issues.”

As far as what the debate team does, they argue current issues.

“In debate, we are given a topic which we research and prepare an affirmative and negative case,” said Andreone.

There are three types of debate that the O’Gorman team practices: Lincoln Douglas, Policy Debate, and Public Forum.

O’Gorman’s debate team began their season in October by practicing twice a week. They attended their first competition in November where they brought team members Shilpa Chandran, Gian Andreone and Cassie Tomac.

“Gian went 2-2 in Lincoln Douglas Debate, and Cassie and Shilpa competed in Public Forum Debate and also went 2-2,” said Skar.

Compared to other schools O’Gorman is just as competitive as any other team across the state.

“O’Gorman is at about the same level as other schools,” said Andreone. “Although we have a small team, we still keep up with the competition.”

According to Andreone, debate is more than just an extraciricular activity; it is also a way to meet students from other schools and make new friends.

“I enjoy the fellowship the most,” said Andreone.

“You grow closer to your fellow debaters and make a lot of friends from other schools.”

The O’Gorman debate team is hoping to take all of its members to the state tournament, which takes place March 5-6. The team is striving to qualify for nationals as well.

Nick Sideras, a member of the O’Gorman debate team during the 2008-2009 season, qualified for nationals last year.

## Cathedral renovation causes Vespers 2009 relocation to occur

**Maria Barnett**  
Entertainment Co-Editor

Although the location changed, Vespers 2009 had a strong turnout, continuing to keep the Christmas concert a popular tradition for the O’Gorman choir.

Mrs. Cathy Britton, choral director, kept a positive outlook on the change of locatoin and expected as much success from Vespers as past years had shown.

“The seniors will be sad,” said Britton. “However, it will be great. There is even a production crew involved.”

The positives that came with the concert’s switch to Central Baptist Church included a video recording of the concert, live feed of the students during the concert and seating for about one thousand people.

Central Baptist recorded the concert so the choir could watch their performance – which is not something that had been possible in the past.

Also, because of the live feed, parents were able to watch their students while they performed. These are both features that the Cathedral did not have the ability to provide for the concert in the past.

Seating played an even a bigger role in the venue this year.

“We needed seating for over 800 people,” said Britton. “Central Baptist had the best to offer.”

A location this size was im-

portant for the concert.

In past years at the Cathedral, it became so packed that people had to stand in the back of the church in order to watch the show.

Britton is not the only one who has a positive outlook on the concert’s change of location. Choir members were looking forward to the change of venue as well.

“I’m sad it’s not at the Cathedral my senior year,” said senior choral member Madison Shaft.

“[However,] if it had to be anywhere else, I’m glad it’s at Central Baptist. I’m excited to sing in there!”

The choir department expected a crowd just as large as past years, and additional seating added to the crowd, proving Vespers to be a very popular event among the O’Gorman community, according to Shaft.

The 2009 theme of the show was “Come to the Cradle”. The concert had less traditional songs, such as the Spanish Christmas folksong “Riu Riu Chiu” and “There Will Be Rest.”

However, this year the choir also added traditional Christmas carols like “Go Tell It on the Mountain” and the “Hallelujah Chorus” to its concert.

This year’s concert brought in many listeners and had a once again outstanding turn out. The chorus department’s next event will be Concert Choir Capers in late February.



## Trivia useful in quiz bowl competition

Molly Donohue  
Staff Writer

Stealing is not just for baseball these days; Quiz bowl competitions have their fair share of stealing as well.

O’Gorman’s quiz bowl team members work to memorize numerous volumes of information that most people would never learn. This seemingly useless trivia not only arms them for competition today but is useful information for team members’ futures as well.

“What better way to learn new things than competing against others?” said junior Mitchell Moe, quiz bowl member. “I love being part of a team that has the same interests as I do.”

Team members compete in quiz bowl tournaments, which consist of four to six students per team participating in three rounds. Two teams go against each other during a 30 question round, alternating answering questions from team to team.

Each team has only 30 seconds to answer a question. When a team does not answer a question correctly, the opposing team has the opportunity to steal the question by providing the correct answer and receiving the point.

Last year both O’Gorman quiz bowl teams consistently placed in the top ten at competitions.

“What makes quiz bowl fun is that it is a team competition, not an individual event,” said junior John Meyer, quiz bowl member.

Science, math, geography, music and poetry are all topics covered at quiz bowl tournaments. Although the questions and the teams participating change between each tournament, the format of the competitions remains the same.

“Last year was a totally new experience for me,” said Moe, who has been on the team since his sophomore year. “I had never studied to learn random facts before, but it’s actually a lot of fun.”

This year is also the second year that Mr. Chad LeBrun, quiz bowl coach, has been a part of O’Gorman’s team. He coached quiz bowl in Minnesota while student teaching there, prior to coming to South Dakota.

“I like working with the most intelligent students in the school,” said LeBrun. “For practice we look at questions or play Trivial Pursuit.”

The team practices once a week on Wednesdays and have six competitions from October to March.

For quiz bowlers, it is important to be aware of academic and worldly information, including details about events that most people might not pay attention to when listening to news stories or current events.

Quiz bowl participants are able to learn interesting information while preparing and competing for their competitions.

“Our team is hoping to place in the top three at the upcoming tournament in January,” said Moe.



KNIGHT LEGEND

Student council members Patrick Brende, Elizabeth Bunkers and Zach Johnson enjoy each other’s company during a recent council meeting.

## Council strives to serve student body, community

Shilpa Chandran  
Assistant Editor

O’Gorman student council is working to make another school year memorable.

With their motto of community service, school activities and school improvement, the 17 members of the council meet twice a month to discuss school ideas.

“When we meet, we get to throw around ideas and see which ones will stick,” said senior Elizabeth Bunkers, student council president.

Having been elected in February, students are then on the council through their senior year. In order to become a member, students are required to fill out a form, obtain a letter of reference, and submit 25 signatures from their classmates.

If these conditions are met,

students are placed on a ballot and then elected by their peers.

“We have a great group of kids on the council from different areas of the school,” said Bunkers. “It really helps to give us a sense of what O’Gorman wants.”

At their meetings, council members are constantly brainstorming new ideas.

Some events that they created have become O’Gorman traditions, such as the homecoming carnival, Halloween activities, turkey bowling and semester test care packages.

“Some activities obviously are more popular than others and take years to perfect,” said Mr. Doug Basche, student council supervisor. “We try ideas, and if it doesn’t work, we try something different next time.”

However, it is difficult for members to take what the student

body wants and plan a realistic event. Factors such as cost, logistics and administration approval must be considered.

“I really wish we could get more recommendation from the student body, but most people enjoy many of the activities we already do,” said senior Patrick Brende, student council vice-president.

With their hard work and dedication, student council continues to plan activities that they hope the student body will be receptive to and will contribute to the community as a whole.

“We have a great group of individuals on the council who have strong leadership skills and are genuinely conscientious about not only providing activities for their peers but promoting O’Gorman in the community through service projects,” said Basche.

## FCA brings community and faith to O’Gorman

Kaitlin Bruggeman  
Staff Writer

After 25 years, Fellowship of Christian Athletes adviser Mr. Rick Lynch continues to bring in a constant flow of students to the Wednesday night events.

“I’ve known about FCA for a long time; my older sisters were always involved in it, and I remember always wanting to go,” said senior Maegen Lipetzky.

“FCA is a good stress reliever for me in the middle of the week.”

At O’Gorman, FCA represents more than just a group of students meeting and having discussions.

It represents the uniting of

students in grades 9-12 who have an interest in athletics and want to learn how to emulate Jesus and serve Him in their relationships.

“The key word is fellowship,” said Lynch. “We do that under the Christian theme, which encompasses the six FCA pillars of service, community, teamwork, faith, integrity, and excellence.”

Whether it is a few freshmen or a group of seniors, everyone is invited and encouraged to come and join in FCA activities.

“The activities and volunteer services help to make the message of Christ practical for everyday life,” said Lynch.

A couple of the service opportunities that FCA allows students to be a part of include Family to Family, which works to provide clothing to needy Sioux Falls families, and volunteering at Children’s Home Society.

“There is a good sense of community,” said Lipetzky. “People from every grade can participate together and have a good time.”

The FCA vision and main focus for group discussions is “to see the world impacted for Jesus Christ through the influence of athletes and coaches.”

Every time that FCA meets, a topic of teen interest, such as self

image, eating disorders, chemical awareness or stress management is discussed.

FCA speakers consist of alumni, seniors and community leaders.

Discussion of FCA topics allows students a better understanding of how to assist their fellow peers in dealing with their problems.

Students, such as Lipetzky, find the talks to be a very informative part of FCA activities.

“Every week FCA tries to provide a discussion about positive characteristics that young Christians should have before the activity starts,” said Lipetzky.

### Upcoming FCA Events

1/06 College Speakers  
7:30pm

1/20 Snow Games  
To Be Announced

1/27 Movie Knight: “Up”  
7:00pm

2/10 Ice Skating  
7:30pm-9:00pm

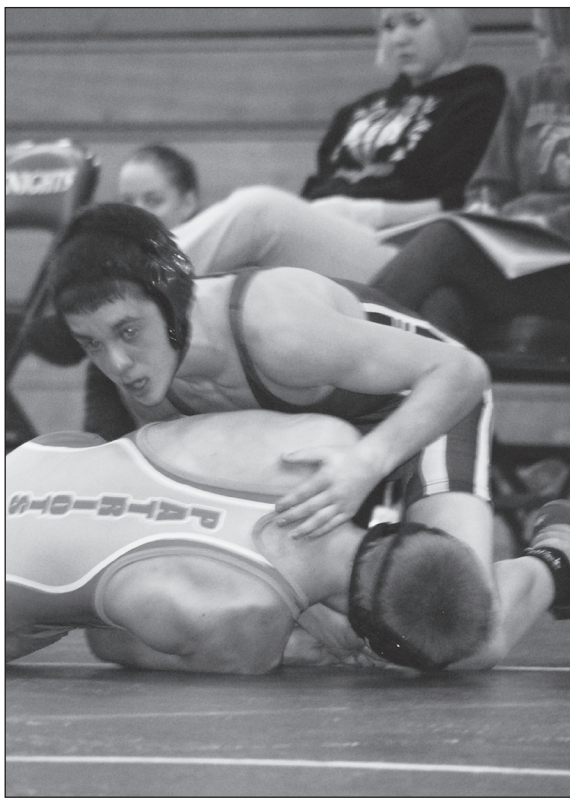
2/17 Movie Knight:  
“Lion King”  
7:00pm





Chandler Nielsen passes the ball.

KNIGHT SCROLL



Ben Fichter pins down his opponent.

KNIGHT SCROLL



Sam Wallin shoots a layup.

KNIGHT SCROLL

# Winter sports heat up school

Domenica Gilbert  
Cameron Johnson  
JR Stassi

## Boys' Basketball

After taking fourth place at the 2009 state basketball tournament, the Knights are looking to make it further this season.

The Knights lost a substantial group of players including seniors Danny Hughes and Will Powell; however, the Knights are returning a lot of talented players such as Mike Hardie, Sterling Nielsen, Cedrick Lang and Sam Wallin.

This season, the cards have fallen in O'Gorman's favor with a strong team. In previous years, the team has lacked diversity in its talent, but it looks like there is just the right blend of size and speed this year.

"We have a lot of speed and a lot of guys that can shoot the ball," said Nielsen.

The Knights are looking forward to a lot of things this year, but what they want above all else is a third state championship at the Rapid City Civic Center.

"Some of the team goals are to play together, fight through times of adversity and of course win the state championship," said Nielsen.

The Knights have not made a state final since their back-to-back 2005-06 and 2006-07 seasons.

"One of the biggest advantages that a team can have is having the mindset that no one can beat us," said Nielsen.

The Knights start off their season with a two-day tour of the

Rapid City teams on December 11-12.

## Powerlifting

The O'Gorman Knights powerlifting team is hoping to lift themselves into the record books this season. Coming off of their fourth consecutive championship, the team has high hopes for this season and many more to come.

The Knights have the possibility of becoming the first AA school to win five consecutive championships in a single sport.

"Our team this year is hoping to defend our first place title," said senior lifter Ben Frank. "If we achieve this, it will be five years in a row we have won state."

With tough competing teams coming from Madison and Roosevelt, the team will need to give it all they have to make the fourth championship the most memorable.

"Our team goal is to do the best we can and make our coaches Ed Whiting and Alex Butterfield as proud as a peacock," said Frank. "A goal of mine is to just place first; ever since I was in eighth grade Mr. Whiting has been pushing me to become the best."

The only challenge the Knights seem to face is the tremendous loss of seniors. Losing two record breakers in the state meet is always a tough challenge.

## Gymnastics

After placing third at state last year, the O'Gorman gymnastics

team hopes to tumble its way to a gold.

"The team did extremely well last year," said junior and Co-Captain Natalie Ray. "We far surpassed expectations."

Under the training of Emmy Cotten, head coach, the girls will have an intense practice schedule as they prepare for the competition.

"We practice about three hours a day, six days a week," said Ray. "It's exhausting!"

Having beat O'Gorman at the state tournament last year, Watertown's and Mitchell's gymnastics teams both stand as tough opponents. They placed first and second, respectively. Lincoln will also be a team to watch out for, as they placed fourth overall last year.

The class AA state tournament will be held in Rapid City this year on February 20 - 21.

## Wrestling

The O'Gorman wrestling team looks do well this season. The Knights look to improve on the stellar season they had last year.

"Our goals would be to have a full varsity and JV line up, keep everyone healthy, and send as many people to state as possible," said senior Dan Haiar.

The Knights won the city championship last year, so a repeat is an obvious goal. The Knights almost clinched both varsity and JV, but fell a match short.

The Knights are preparing for their season opener against Sioux City by practicing assuming to be

the best.

"To be the best you have to practice like the best," said sophomore Ben Fichter.

After the loss of key wrestlers due to graduation and relocation, the Knights have open spots for former JV wrestlers looking to step up into the spotlight.

Last year, the team brought many wrestlers to state. They brought Fichter at 112, Taylor Ronan at 130, Travis Rhode at 135, Josh Duus at 140, Collin Lathrop at 152, Grady Hakl at 171, Austin Nelson at 189, and Robbie Hakl at 215.

To improve from that, the wrestlers have to give it everything they have in all areas, in order to increase their chances at a win.

"This year, we look to pin to win," said Fichter.

This year, like all years, the wrestling team will look to be the best they can be and to hopefully place at state.

## Bowling

Coming off of a tough loss to Washington in the state tournament last year, the girls' and boys' bowling teams hope to finish with a state championship.

"We have only had three practices so far, but I think that we are going to do really well this year," said senior bowler Paige Heim. "We had a really good turnout for tryouts and gained a lot of experienced bowlers. I can tell we have some great potential."

The Knights had their first meet against Harrisburg on Friday,

Nov. 13. Even on this unlucky day, all the boys performed well.

For the girls' team, two of the players returning this year are seniors Heim and Marie Scott.

For the boys, Jack Berger, Troy Busch, and Eric Nash look at leading the team to a strong finish.

"This season, I personally have some very high goals for myself, as well as the team," said Berger. "We have the opportunity to show some people what we can do; I think we will be pretty good."

## Girls' Basketball

Looking to be ranked as one of the top teams in the state, the O'Gorman girls basketball team aims to meet the challenge and place at state.

"We didn't reach our full potential last year, and we hope to do better this year," said senior Rheann Brekke. "There is some strong competition this year, but we should be able to get it together for state."

As usual, the Sioux Falls teams will all be challenging opponents for the Knights to defeat. This year, Roosevelt's team stands out in particular as a strong contender.

"The Roosevelt game will be crazy," said Brekke.

Returning seniors, aside from Brekke, include Kerry Grogan, Nicole Schlotterback, Abby Meyers and Claire Wilka that will help lead the team toward win at state.

Also, junior Alyssa Brown and sophomore Chandler Nielsen are promising players that will help the team, said Brekke.



## New hunting law lowers age requirement

Sam Jacobsen  
Staff Writer

A new South Dakota law has been established that allows youth to start hunting at an earlier age. According to the Game, Fish and Parks Division of Wildlife, the age requirement for hunting changed

from 12 to age 10.

This change has affected families all across South Dakota. Many factors were considered when the new law allowing 10 year-olds to hunt with a legal guardian was established.

"There was a very strong push

from a number of groups and individuals to have this legislation put in place," said Chuck Schlueter, communications program administrator.

"These folks worked closely with legislators and the Game, Fish and Parks Department to allow the

mentored hunting program, with hopes that it will encourage more people to become hunters and enjoy the many opportunities that South Dakota offers," said Schlueter.

However, not everyone is pleased with the new law.

"Ten-year-olds are too young to be trusted with guns," said junior Jarvis McCoy.

Also, many conflicts arise with this new age requirement.

"Some people might think it's

See **HUNTING** page 11

## O'Gorman Knights end football season; pleased with results

Cameron Johnson  
Opinion Editor

Although they didn't go to the dome, the O'Gorman Knights football team proved itself once again. Winning 65 of their last 71 games, they establish themselves as a powerhouse year after year.

This year, the Knights only had two regular season losses, with one coming from state champions Washington and the other from state runners-up Aberdeen Central.

The Knights started off the season the same as last year- with a loss. They lost their season opener against Aberdeen Central 24-16 in Aberdeen.

However, they quickly improved. The team won seven out

of their eight final games.

"I am really proud of this group of players," said head coach Steve Kueter. "They improved more than any team I have coached at O'Gorman."

In playoff action, the Knights handed Watertown a first round 16-3 defeat. In a rematch from earlier in the season, the Knights faced off against Roosevelt in quarterfinal action.

After being down big early, the Knights rallied to beat the Rough Riders 37-26. The win set up a rematch with Aberdeen Central.

On a cold night in Aberdeen, the Knights saw a late fourth quarter 17-14 lead slip away as the Golden Eagles rallied to win 21-17.

## Lady Knights put forth strong effort in season

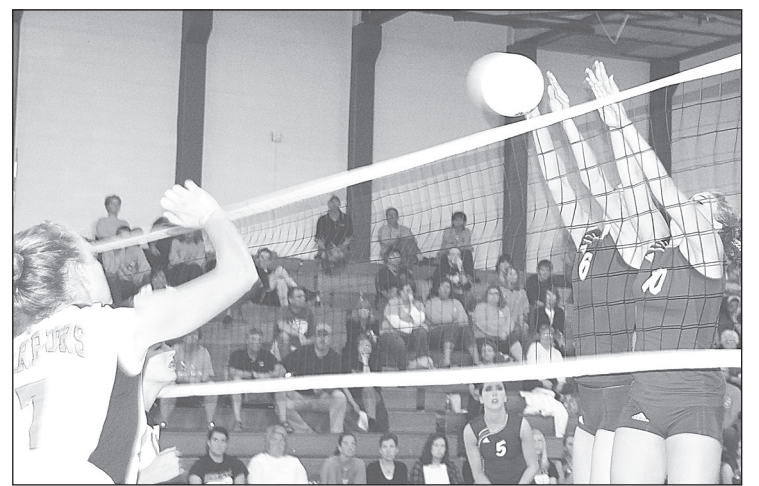
JR Stassi  
Sports Editor

The Lady Knights finished off the 2009 season with a loss at districts. The Knights gave a strong effort as they completed their season with an overall record of 12 and 10.

With the majority of their losses against top-ranked teams, the Knights faced an uphill battle going into districts. The final outcome was decided by a tense five-game match that favored Roosevelt. The Knights went on to play Brookings, who defeated the Knights and ended their state tournament dreams.

The season ended in a loss; however, the Knights feel the season was a positive one.

"Overall, I think the season was a success," said Olga Zamulko.



Liz Kappenman and Mackenzie Holm block a return.

The Knights are planning to work hard as they prepare for next season.

Many of the players are planning on playing in the Junior Olympics this spring, and many are involved in other activities as well.

Although the team was made up of talented players, their two district losses against Roosevelt and Brookings prevented them from reaching state.

The Knights were unsuccessful in attaining their main goal of the state championship.

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## Acoustic duo plans Pavilion show, seeks new record label

Zach Dresch  
Entertainment Co-Editor

Dressed in jet black clothing and boots to amaze even the most common man, Richie Rossing is making a statement at O'Gorman.

O'G senior Richie Rossing and his friend Micah Tigner, a senior at Joe Foss, have formed an acoustic folk band named *Needles and Thimbles*. The music contains elements of both blues and jazz.

"I played a couple of songs with Richie one day," said Tigner. "We got pretty into it. I showed him some of my lyrics, as did he, then it kind of just bloomed from there."

Mutual influences include alternative acts such as *The Bright Eyes*, *The Shins*, *Pete Doherty* and *The Smiths*. Poetry is also a major influence shared by the duo.

"I find lyrical influence in many romantic, symbolic, and beat poets, such as Arthur Rimbaud, Lord Byron, Charles Baudelaire, W.B. Yeats, Maria Rilke, Allen Ginsberg, and Jack Kerouac," said Rossing.

The two troubadours have made an appearance already at Black Sheep Coffee on Halloween night. They also plan to make their rounds in the local music scene.

"We plan on successfully melding symbolic, poetic lyrics with interesting musical arrangements," said Rossing.

"We also plan on adding more instruments to our live band, such as the piano, horns, cello, violin, and small Indian children banging spoons against their thighs."

The two entrepreneurs of acoustic theory also share a unique writing style.

"My songs are usually based



ROSSING AND TIGNER PERFORM AT DUNN BROS. IN NOVEMBER. SUBMITTED PHOTO

on a poem that I've written in my journal about some sort of personal apocalypse that has occurred in my life," said Rossing.

"Our songs are intensely personal and symbolic of our life experiences."

The group's ambition proves their originality and versatility.

"We have a unique way of writing lyrics, where I have written something on my own, and he has written something on his own, and somehow they fit together perfectly to tell a singular story," said Rossing.

Rossing and Tigner are also working on potentially being signed to a record label.

"I have recently talked to Asthmatic Kitty Records," said Tigner.

Asthmatic Kitty Records is the same label that another influence of theirs, *Sufjan Stevens*, is currently a part of.

"They said we could send in some music, but no promises," said Tigner. "Though that would be awesome, we don't expect

much."

A concert in a small theater at the Pavilion titled "An Evening with *Needles and Thimbles*" in December is the next plan for the dynamic duo.

The show will be a classy event, which signifies the debut of a full band of merry musicians. Traveling is another focal point for the group's near future.

"We are also planning a journey across the country to New York next summer, with little or no money spent on trains, motorcycles, or hitchhiking to find inspiration for our future songs and writings," said Rossing.

Much more is in store for the two-man group, with numerous plans in their future.

"We plan on burning the Sioux Falls music scene to the cold, unforgiving ground and as melodic Messianic figures, rebuild our harmonic holy land from its bloody ashes, in our own glorious visage," said Rossing.

## Sophisticated look replaces old styles in men's fashions

Abby Meyers  
Activities Co-Editor

With Christmas just around the corner, many young men are trying to decide what gifts to ask for and possibly what presents to buy for their friends.

Well, I am here to help solve this problem with a few simple items: new clothes, grooming products and some decent looking shoes, which are apparently hard to come by at O'Gorman.

First off is the wardrobe. Many jocks are under the impression that it is attractive to wear baggy sweats, cut-offs and old, ragged t-shirts all the time, but trust me, this is not so appealing when you are looking through the eyes of a young female.

Jeans are not meant to be sagged down to the knees; belts are made for a reason, so let's start wearing them.

Also, try wearing dark-wash jeans that are not faded and ripped from being over-worn. Cargo pants are another article of clothing to avoid.

In addition, flannel shirts and v-neck t-shirts are a great look. Put those old t-shirts away and switch it up with a nice but casual button down, preferably not the kind Mr. V wears.

If guys are going for the athletic look, try a nice Nike or other popular sports brand t-shirt, with a pair of jeans and some nice tennis shoes, not the ones that have been worn for the past five years.

Athletic jerseys may look cute on my fourth grade brother but

after elementary school, they just give the wearer a look of immaturity. Also, wearing an old tournament t-shirt or a cut-off guarantees that the outfit will scream the word "hick".

For a more casual look, try pairing a v-neck with a pair of jeans and Birkenstock's or Sperry's. This is a good look because it not only looks great, but it also gives off the vibe that not a lot of effort was put into the outfit.

Stores like Ralph Lauren, J-Crew and Gap are great places for guys to shop due to their wide variety of stylish items to choose from.

As far as hygiene goes, most teenage men need major help. First off, the scruff needs to go. We are not dealing with a bunch of forty-year-old men here, we are dealing with teenagers.

It is much more attractive when guy's face can actually be seen, rather than just a hairy mess. Furthermore, sideburns are a definite no; they give people the appearance of being bums, no matter what outfit the individual may be wearing.

There are also very few people who can pull off a mullet or cat scratches. Although I have seen a few people pull it off in my day, recent attempts that I have viewed have failed greatly.

So guys, once again, when looking for a gift idea for a friend, or just looking to expand your own wardrobe, start by going to the mall and picking up some new clothes and maybe a few grooming products, too.

## Children's play provides big entertainment *Family-friendly show receives expected warm reception*

Christina Engeman  
Domenica Gilbert

The *Cinderella* cast set a new path for the O'Gorman theatre department when it showcased its members at the Parade of Lights.

Cast members, along with their director, were enthusiastic about the chance to take part in this special event.

"It has always been a dream of mine to be in the parade," said Director Scott Nelson. "I offered the idea to the parents, and they were all willing to get involved."

The actors felt that the parade was a great opportunity to see how the crowd would react.

"I felt the effort we put into the parade got everyone prepared for the show," said junior cast member Steven Schaeffer. "It

really brought the characters alive as we interacted with the crowd."

Also, the crowd enjoyed the experience as much as the cast.

"I thought it was cool to see the cast in their costumes at the parade," said senior Meghan Bannwarth. "It was a good way to promote the play and definitely made me want to go see the play even more."

The parade gave a glimpse of what the actual performance held in store the following weekend.

The show was a crowd-pleaser as usual, inviting children of a young age to experience a theatrical event.

"The show helps children use their imagination, it's not like a movie," said senior cast member Wendy Nelson.



JORY KUNZMAN / KNIGHT SCROLL

Cast members from *Cinderella* perform during the children's show, which took place December 4-6.



## Major label rock band brings fun, laughs

Zach Dresch  
Entertainment Co-Editor

Sioux Falls entertainment just became a lot more fun. This is all in thanks to the rock band *Bowling For Soup*.

*Bowling For Soup* has been around for 15 years, and ever since then the band has developed a cult-following of fans who enjoy funny, catchy rock music.

The concert that took place at Nuttys North on Nov. 12 was an indicator of their large sense of humor and undeniable charisma with the crowd.

In between each song, the band cracked jokes, and half of the time the show felt like a stand-up comedy concert, which made it fun for both the band and the audience.

Joke topics included pinatas, Dane Cook's humor and an experience at Buffalo Wild Wings that had turned ugly earlier that afternoon.

They performed their most well-known hits, including "Almost," "Punk Rock 101" and "Girl All The Bad Guys Want," which is a favorite of band's lead singer

Jaret Reddick.

"All of our songs are awesome, but that one's the most fun to play," said Reddick.

I had the opportunity to interview Reddick and talk to him before the show, an experience that was unforgettable.

"We found Sioux Falls on accident really," said Reddick. "We had fun and we've made lots of friends here."

They closed the set before the encore with their most well-known song, "1985".

Earlier in the show, when the band asked for requests, "1985" received the most responses from the crowd.

"If you guys want to hear that song right now, you might as well take a bathroom break," said Reddick during the concert. "It's always our last song, so it's going to be awhile."

During the middle of the set, the band participated in a photo opportunity, in which they strictly posed for two minutes, allowing fans to take shots of their favorite band, with *Kool and the Gang's* "Celebration" playing in the back-

ground.

"One of the best parts of touring is free beverages and free shoes," said Reddick. "A negative would be being homesick and away from family."

Country music and rock bands such as the *Ramones* and the *Sex Pistols* are cited as influences of the band.

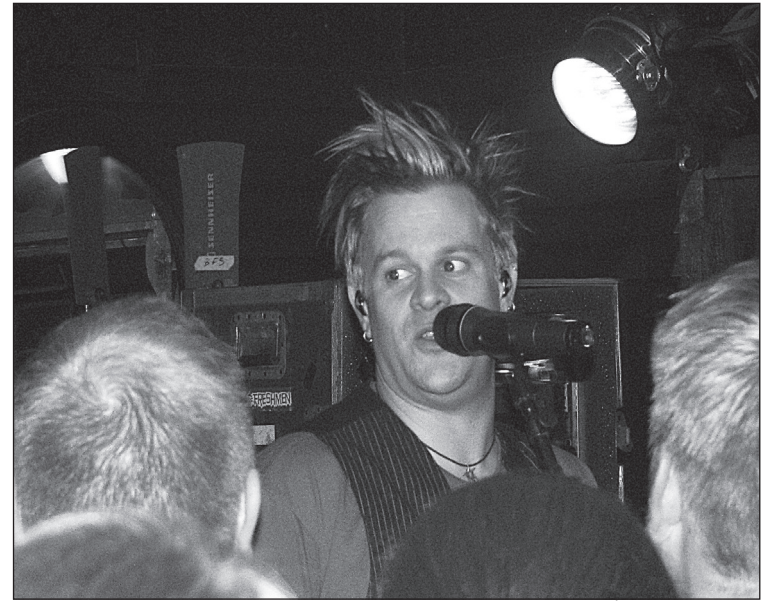
During the show, *Bowling For Soup* also covered "Hot 'N' Cold" by Katy Perry, with an overwhelmingly positive response.

"If we would have written that song, we would be rolling in dough," said Reddick during the show.

The band plans to continue touring during the next two years for their latest album, *Sorry For Partying*, which was released on Oct. 13 this year.

During the show, the band returned for an encore, singing a satirical song entitled "A Really Cool Dance Song," mocking bands that sell out by recording a dance song.

*Bowling For Soup* was not the only enjoyable part of the concert. The opening bands were also entertaining, with nearly the same



MARIA BARNETT / KNIGHT SCROLL

Jaret Reddick, lead singer of *Bowling For Soup*, performs at Nutty's North during a Nov. 12 concert.

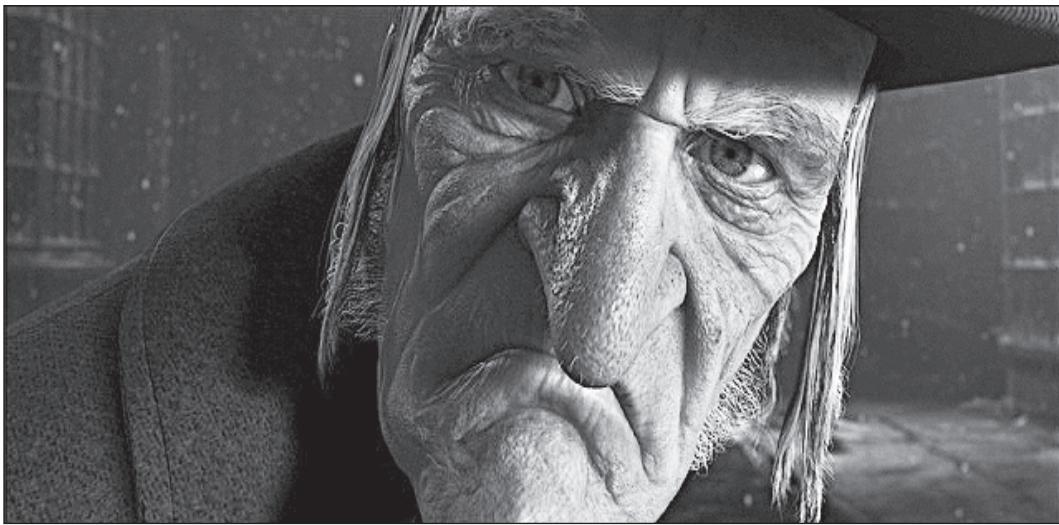
sense of humor as the main act.

The first band, *The Suit*, performed version of *Lady Gaga's* "Just Dance," which proved to be a crowd favorite. They also used self-deprecation as a joke, encouraging the crowd to boo them as they left the stage.

The second band, *MC Lars*, an alternative rap group, performed

songs about Mario, Shakespeare and Moby Dick were put to the rap test.

Without a doubt, the concert was entertaining, and interviewing Reddick made the night both amazing and incredibly memorable. When given the opportunity, no one should miss out on this band.



PRESS PHOTO

*A Christmas Carol* debuted at number one at the box office.

## Christmas Carol successfully portrays the holiday classic

Chris Oligmueller  
Sports Co-Editor

"Bah humbug" is a phrase that does not describe director Robert Zemeckis' newest film based the ever-popular holiday story, *A Christmas Carol* by Lewis Carol.

The movie is very true to Carol's book and is a fantastic re-telling of the story. Zemeckis once more does an excellent job of making a story come to life, much like his work with *The Polar Express*.

In order to achieve this, he used his now trademark motion-capturing special effects. With this technology, it seems as though Zemeckis has finally found his way to fully bringing

the characters to life, especially when compared to *Express*.

Characters, such as Scrooge or the ghosts of Christmas, appear as though they are actual people on the screen and not mere computer renditions.

Part of *A Christmas Carol's* superb re-telling is its strong lead in the voice-acting department. Led by the usually funny Jim Carey (*Yes Man*), who voices and portrays Scrooge and the ghosts, most of the film brings out his more serious side.

Besides sticking to the original story's dialogue, Carey also adds another layer to the characters he portrays by accurately depicting the mannerisms of each character, both vocally and

visually.

Carey, however, is not the strongest voice in the film. He is teamed with Gary Oldman (*The Dark Knight*), Colin Firth (*Mamma Mia*) and Robin Wright Penn (*Forrest Gump*).

Oldman, who voices Marley's ghost and Bob Cratchit, could easily steal the scene if not careful.

The same can be said of Firth, who does a magnificent job of developing the possibly one-dimensional character of Scrooge's nephew and gives him enough substance to potentially make him better than Scrooge.

See **CAROL** page 11

## Author transforms Austen classic into exciting new tale

Nicole Scheier  
Faith Co-Editor

From the depths of the perilous sea, author Ben H. Winters transforms Jane Austen's original classic, *Sense and Sensibility*, into the twisted turmoil of *Sense and Sensibility and Sea Monsters*.

In a flourishing attempt to enliven Austen's original work, Winters vividly incorporates the dangers of the sea and its impact on Austen's beloved characters.

Even with the ominous addition of sea serpents, pirates, sea witches and other monstrosities, Winters still follows much of Austen's original storyline.

Although Winters depicts most of Austen's characters fairly accurately, he errs in his depiction of Colonel Brandon. In the original work of *Sense and Sensibility*, Austen depicts Colonel Brandon as an honorable and wealthy man who undergoes many personal misfortunes.

However, Winters not only focuses on Colonel Brandon's personal misfortunes but builds on them with a physical deformation of his character.

Due to the tentacles protruding from his face, Colonel Brandon appears to be a monster. Winters

explains that the tentacles are the result of a curse from a sea witch, but the author fails to mention how this misfortune came about.

The squelching noise of Colonel Brandon's tentacles causes repulsion of the people around him. This attribute is unfair to his character.

Even with the gloomy events brought about by various monstrosities, Winters focuses on the same theme as Austen: social propriety.

Wealth and connections establish a rigorous social hierarchy. Marriage to an individual who exceeds one's own social status is difficult to accomplish.

Unfortunately, the Dashwood sisters face difficulties in this matter. They both fall for conventional men, whose families' expectations are more than the girls' earnings of 100 pounds a year. This leads to both heartache and havoc.

Overall, *Sense and Sensibility and Sea Monsters* provides a thrilling tale that illustrates Austen's original storyline, with a delightful dose of action and adventure to keep readers entertained.

Even amidst the turmoil, the author manages to integrate humor into his story's pages.



# Taylor's Tips: Christmas Edition

Taylor Reeves  
Activities Co-Editor

Seasons greetings! With semester tests rapidly approaching, Christmas is just around the corner. The tree is decorated and the lights are hung, but the presents from you are missing.

As a high school student with a minimum wage job, you may find yourself in a gift-giving predicament. This Christmas, allow yourself to partake in the season of giving without breaking the bank by following Taylor's Tips for Teens: Christmas Edition.

**1. Friends:** We've all wanted to critique our friend's music choices at one time or another. Use this Christmas to subtly offer your advice. A burned CD is a great way to begin a music education or expand others into a new musical horizon.

**2. Parents:** As my mother al-



ways says, "Actions speak louder than words." This Christmas, give your parents a coupon book that includes various tasks you will accomplish for them.

**3. Siblings:** Although coal may seem like a great gift for siblings, use this as an opportunity to find a gift for yourself. Get that brother or sister a nice little gadget you have had your eyes on for awhile.

**4. Significant other:** It's reasonable to think that a gold necklace or fancy cologne might be out of your price range, so try flexing your golden pipes for that special someone by reading them a homemade poem.

**5. Grandparents:** This Christmas, give Grandma and Grandpa your latest school photo, but be sure to put it in a frame so it looks like you put some thought into it.

The famous Doctor Seuss once wrote, "What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?"

Christmas is not a competition. Don't worry about the price of the gift but the message that it sends to those you love.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Top Ten Christmas Gifts You Might Expect from Taylor

1. Invitation to the 'Cult'
2. Snuggles, preferably in leopard print
3. Snuggles for your pet
4. Socks, in various colors, patterns and levels of fuzziness
5. My autograph
6. Homemade pottery from pottery class
7. Senior pictures of yours truly
8. A hug
9. A keychain made out of lesterlace
10. A ride on my double bike

# Photo Survey: What are the best and worst Christmas gifts you've ever received?



**Best:** "Paint ball gun."  
**Worst:** "Clothes."

- Freshman Cole Ohnoutka



**Best:** "Money."  
**Worst:** "A bunny onesie from my grandma."

- Sophomore Elizabeth Busch



**Best:** "A really cool red bike when I was twelve."  
**Worst:** "A pen that said 'your name here'... my grandpa forgot my name."

- Junior Michael Promes



**Best:** "Money."  
**Worst:** "When my mom gets me clothes."

- Senior Rachel Beranek

# In -and- Out

Cooked Goose

Turkey

Santa

Pilgrims

Dashboard  
Confessional

John Mayer

DJ Hero

Guitar Hero

Silent Football

Real Football



O'Gorman students gather to serve at the Banquet.

# Holiday season sparks interest in volunteering

Maria Barnett  
Shilpa Chandran

During all the Christmas cheer, it's the perfect time to volunteer. As fall activities begin to wind down and schedules open up, we have discovered that now is just the right time to give.

In Sioux Falls, it's hard to notice at first glance all the people that do need help. Yet, it is during the winter season that people need students like us the most. So let's take time to find all the different volunteer opportunities we have right here at O'Gorman.

The most popular opportunities for teenagers to participate in are those that are advertised right at our school. Volunteering at places such as the Banquet, the St. Francis House and the Food Pantry help students to realize how much of a difference their time can mean.

Two hours serving at the St. Francis House can feed a family, foster meaningful conversations and form everlasting memories. Most importantly, these nights can teach students lifelong les-

sons.

"You receive more than you get," said Mr. Brian Feller, Campus Ministry director. "It's a cliché, but I think it's true."

However, not all volunteer opportunities involve aiding physical needs. Sometimes, all someone needs is a little TLC, especially children. According to the IRP Poverty Dispatch, "One in six South Dakota children live in poverty."

This means that 33,000 children under the age of 18 are below the poverty line. While their parents struggle financially, all kids want is a little comfort.

Opportunities such as purchasing a shower kit at the Banquet, which contains everything needed to get ready in the mornings, can make a difference in a child's life.

"I hope one of the things [students] learn is that they don't have to get something out of volunteering," said Feller. "It's really about the other person."

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# Students uncertain about specific rules regarding uniform

Christina Engeman  
Faith Co-Editor

As with any other school, O'Gorman has many rules and guidelines to protect its students and portray them in a positive way.

There is one rule, however, that is not directly addressed but rather implied, just for the ladies: the manner in which makeup can be worn.

According to the 2009-2010 O'Gorman High School Student Handbook, there are no specific rules stating how a female must wear her makeup.

Shoes, shirts, hair and pants all include strict guidelines, but nothing regarding the color or

amount of makeup on a girl's face is addressed.

That being said, ladies should be permitted to use whatever shades they choose but with some discretion in mind.

Also, since there is no exact rule instituted on the matter, a girl should not receive a detention or other punishment in regards to her makeup, unless a rule is instated.

The idea of the dress code at O'Gorman is to eliminate competition, promote a visible sign of self-respect and minimize distractions. The dress code does all of these things effectively.

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HUNTING  
Continued from page 7

unsafe for kids to shoot guns,” said McCoy. The new age requirement allows adults and children to connect with one another.

“It is a great opportunity for adults to connect with young people in a very personal way by becoming a mentor to a young hunter,” said Schlueter.

Many young adults are taking part in the hunting season.

“Last year, the first year, we had over 1,100 mentored deer hunts, 174 antelope hunts and 235 turkey hunts,” said Schlueter.

There are many memories to be made between father and son now that the hunting age has been changed to 10.

“It’s a good experience for kid hunters to enjoy,” said McCoy.

“We feel this has been a good program on a couple of levels,” said Schlueter. “It does allow young people an early opportunity to experience hunting.”

The age requirement was issued in July, and Game, Fish and Parks were mentoring hunts by September. Due to the new age requirement, more individuals are able to hunt than have ever been able to in the past.

Some families with young children approve of the new law, but parents are also more concerned about the young children’s safety.

However, the new law does take into account the importance of safety. Safety for young hunters and hunters with young children is considered every time anyone goes out to hunt.

Due to the new law, hunting has changed for everyone, both young hunters and old.

This law will require hunters to be especially careful when they go hunting and to watch out for young hunters.



SPIRIT  
Continued from page 1

school spirit was at a level of two or three, while there were few ones, and almost no fives. While the news that very few students believe O’Gorman has no school spirit was promising, the results began to show a different view as the support questions were analyzed. While the majority of students stated that they support others, only 25 percent truly felt supported.

Moreover, only seven percent of the student body said they do not support other activities, but twenty two percent of students felt unsupported. The answer for this

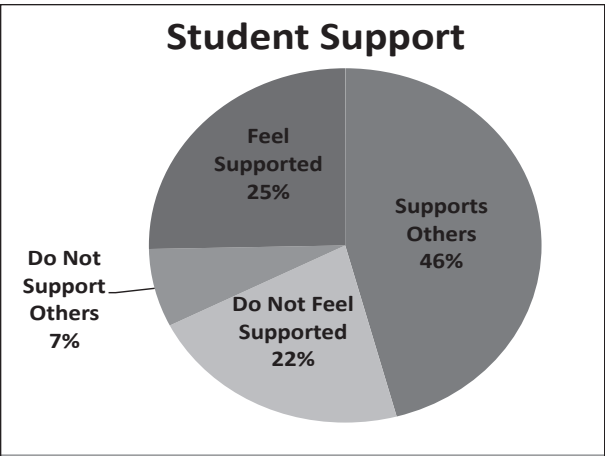
was evident in student-produced responses as to the reasons why.

Numerous students said that some of their activities were supported, while others remain unacknowledged.

Band was a frequently mentioned activity that students said received little to no support from the students.

However, this lack of support spreads to sports as well. Nearly every student said that football and basketball were the most popular sports, while others such as wrestling and volleyball went nearly unnoticed.

As a telling quote by one student went, “The entire school will travel three hours to watch the football team lose playoffs, but



not one person will come to see the boys’ soccer team win state.”

This unequal distribution of support remained a theme in each of the surveys that were returned.

Although students feel O’Gorman has an average amount of school spirit, most students feel this spirit is channeled toward one or two activities in particular.

Yet, this may not be the case in every school. In the next issue of the Knight Scroll, the staff will examine other schools in the area to compare their level of school support as compared to O’Gorman’s.

CAROL  
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With the introduction of the ghosts, the story takes off. The movie did, however, run into some issues when the ghosts took over.

When the first ghost, the Ghost of Christmas Past, appears, his part seems rushed, and it seems as though he was just introduced when he is suddenly put aside to let the Ghost of Christmas Present

make his grand appearance.

The introduction of the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come brings the same disappointment. The spirit spends almost his entire time on the screen in an exciting, yet pointless chase through London’s streets and alleys.

The film, as serious as it may have been, did have the ability to play off of Carey’s comical background. Zemeckis, who also helped pen the script, wrote some lines to help make a humorous undertone come

through with all of Carey’s lines.

Overall, the film is easily one that could be shared with one’s family this season but not for very young children, due to the scariness of some scenes.

The voice acting was well done and with the addition of the motion capturing techniques, the film was able to come to life.

Zemeckis has another holiday hit on his hands, even with the movie’s seemingly rushed ending.

DRESS CODE  
Continued from page 10

However, it fails to establish any rule regarding makeup.

While this lack of clarification has never caused a problem in the past that anyone is aware of, there should either be guidelines made, or students should be allowed to use their own discretion, without any form of discipline because there is no set rule on the matter.

However, students should know that there are limits for school. Just because there is not a section dedicated to the amount or color of makeup that can be worn in the handbook, that does not give girls the right to go all out and over the top with their makeup.

Girls should be conscious of the appropriateness of the way they are presenting themselves during the school day.

While it may seem like a good idea at 7:00 in the morning to personalize one’s monotonous uniform by adding a splash of bright color to the eyes, one may want to reconsider this. Showcasing that recently purchased electric blue eye shadow during school hours is not necessarily the best option.

Instead, save the more dramatic, borderline-Halloween or circus looks for weekends with friends who will not judge

one’s appearance.

By doing so, no unnecessary attention will be brought to an individual, and the need for makeup restrictions will not be necessary.

Along the lines of girls’ appearance, hair color is another issue. The rule in the handbook states “students are allowed to style and tint hair within the realm of normal hair color for the individual.”

This is a fair rule to prevent students from coming to school with a mass of green hair, causing an uproar among administration and distraction to students.

However, when a color a little less popular, such as red, is on a student’s head, it causes a problem.

Having red hair is a natural, normal color for some, so why can’t a lady with brown hair dye it red? By not permitting this, it is somewhat hypocritical to allow a girl with naturally dark brown hair to have fluorescent, platinum blonde, so she can look like Barbie. If red hair is frowned upon, then shouldn’t the ridiculously blonde hair be chastised as well?

Sticking with one’s natural, or close to natural, appearance is the ideal solution to both of these topics, despite that high school is not known for its naturalness. Our school follows the set rules extremely well for the most part, portraying the student body in a positive, respectful way.

SAFETY  
Continued from page 1

Another attribute that both Groos and Mahoney felt was an excellent safety feature is the school’s camera system.

According to Mahoney, there are 32 cameras around the school and one positioned at every exit. She said that the cameras are helpful in case the administration needs to go back and review anything. However, according to Groos they do not go back and check the security cameras every single day.

“We only go back and review the cameras if something is brought to our attention that requires us to go back and look,” said Groos. “When I first started here at O’Gorman, we did not have any of the features you see today like cameras or electronic locks. We really take pride in all the new features that help keep us safe.”

In addition to all this comfort brought on by the new school’s improved safety features, there are also some concerns. According to Mahoney, her biggest concern is the threat of an outside intruder.

“We can’t become too trusting of any outside visitors to the school,” said Mahoney.

“Every student has the right to come to school and feel safe, and I think the new school can provide that feeling for them,” said Groos.

VOLUNTEER  
Continued from page 10

Another opportunity is available right here at our school: the annual Advent Angel Tree. This year, the traditional tree has taken on a twist. Instead of purchasing toys, O’Gorman is combining with Caminando Juntos, a Presentation Sisters organization that benefits Hispanic families in need of basic requirements. Caminando Juntos translates literally into “walking together”.

After all, walking can be especially hazardous during this freezing season. With the temperatures, a necessity for everyone is a proper coat. This is the basis for Coats for Kids and Center of Hope. Coats for Kids collects new and gently used coats to donate to Salvation Army, while Center of Hope provides winter clothing at little to no cost. Both organizations welcome donations.

So with all these available chances to help, there really is no reason not to volunteer. Anyone willing to put in the time and effort can gain something far more lasting: joy. Hopefully, this winter season brings not only a flood of Christmas cheer, but also a flood of Christmas volunteers.



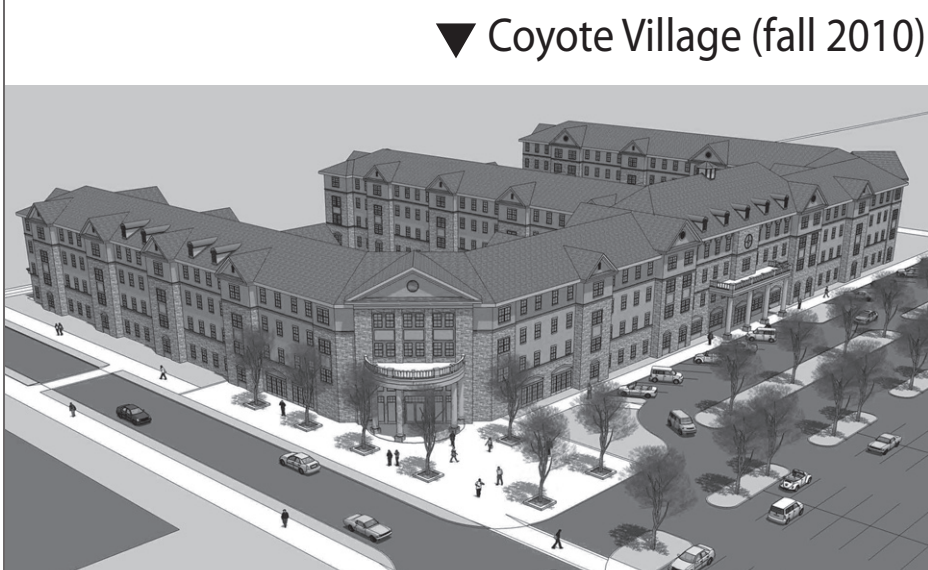
# get to know USD



▲ Business School Building (fall 2009)



Muenster University Center (spring 2009)



▼ Coyote Village (fall 2010)



▼ Wellness Center (spring 2011)

## **Think you know The U? You haven't seen us lately.**

We just opened two extraordinary, state-of-the-art buildings and we're working on more. Our new suite-style Coyote Village residence complex will be available in the fall 2010, and our new Wellness Center is now under construction and scheduled to open in the spring, 2011.

It's all new and all part of your extraordinary college experience at The U. So stop by for a visit, and really get to know us at The University of South Dakota.

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